WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1   1.   A method for securing information associated with a content

2   receiver that is part of a conditional access system, the method comprising steps of:

3   selecting an object for monitoring;

4   independently determining when the object should encounter a checkpoint

5   that triggers at least one of authentication and authorization;

6   independently monitoring that at least one of authentication and

7   authorization is performed; and

8   sending information regarding the monitoring away from the content

9   receiver.

1   2.   The method for securing information associated with the content

2   receiver that is part of the conditional access system as recited in claim 1, further

3   comprising a step of preventing execution of the object in response to the monitoring

4   step.

1   3.   The method for securing information associated with the content

2   receiver that is part of the conditional access system as recited in claim 1, wherein:

3   the determining step comprises a step of determining with an access

4   control processor when the object should encounter the checkpoint, and

5   the access control processor operates independent of a controller.

1   4.   The method for securing information associated with the content

2   receiver that is part of the conditional access system as recited in claim 1, wherein:

3   the monitoring step comprises a step of monitoring with an access control

4   processor that at least one of authentication and authorization is performed, and

5   the access control processor operates independent of a controller.

1   5.   The method for securing information associated with the content

2   receiver that is part of the conditional access system as recited in claim 1, wherein the

3   sending step comprises a step of sending information from an access control processor.

1   6.   The method for securing information associated with the content

2   receiver that is part of the conditional access system as recited in claim 1, further

3   comprising at least one of the following steps of:

4   changing authorization for the object;

5   changing authorization for a functional unit other than the object;

6   deleting the object from volatile memory;

7   deleting the object from non-volatile memory;

8   deleting the object from the content receiver; and

9   stopping execution of the object.

1   7.   The method for securing information associated with the content

2 receiver that is part of the conditional access system as recited in claim 1, further

3 comprising steps of:

4   defining a period that the content receiver should perform the sending step

5 within; and

6   determining from a remote location if the content receiver has performed

7 the sending step.

1   8.   A method for securing information associated with a content

2 receiver that is part of a conditional access system, the method comprising steps of:

3   selecting an object for monitoring;

4   determining when the object should encounter a checkpoint that triggers at

5 least one of authentication and authorization;

6   independently monitoring that at least one of authentication and

7 authorization is performed; and

8   preventing execution of the object in response to the monitoring step.

1   9.   The method for securing information associated with the content

2 receiver that is part of the conditional access system as recited in claim 8, further

3 comprising a step of sending monitoring information away from the content receiver to a

4 headend.

1   10.   The method for securing information associated with the content

2 receiver that is part of the conditional access system as recited in claim 8, wherein:

3   the determining step comprises a step of determining with an access

4 control processor when the object should encounter the checkpoint, and

5   the access control processor operates independent of a controller.

1   11.   The method for securing information associated with the content

2 receiver that is part of the conditional access system as recited in claim 8, wherein:

3   the monitoring step comprises a step of monitoring with an access control

4 processor that at least one of authentication and authorization is performed, and

5   the access control processor operates independent of a controller.

1   12.   The method for securing information associated with the content

2 receiver that is part of the conditional access system as recited in claim 8, wherein the

3 sending step comprises a step of sending information from an access control processor.

1   13.   The method for securing information associated with the content

2 receiver that is part of the conditional access system as recited in claim 8, further

3 comprising steps of:

4   defining a period that the content receiver should perform the sending step

5 within; and

6   determining from a remote location if the content receiver has performed

7 the sending step.

1   14.   The method for securing information associated with the content

2 receiver that is part of the conditional access system as recited in claim 8, further

3 comprising at least one of the following steps of:

4   changing authorization for the object;

5   changing authorization for a functional unit other than the object;

6   deleting the object from volatile memory;

7   deleting the object from non-volatile memory; and

8   deleting the object from the content receiver.

1   15.   A conditional access system for remotely controlling functional

2 units in a content receiver, the conditional access system comprising:

3   a monitoring computer located remotely from the content receiver;

4   a functional unit within the content receiver;

5   a distribution network coupling the monitoring computer to the content

6 receiver;

7   a general purpose processor within the content receiver; and

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8   an access control processor that monitors program execution on the

9   general purpose processor and reports security anomalies to the monitoring computer.

1   16.   The conditional access system for remotely controlling functional

2   units in the content receiver as recited in claim 15, wherein a headend comprises the

3   monitoring computer.

1   17.   The conditional access system for remotely controlling functional

2   units in the content receiver as recited in claim 15, wherein functional unit is chosen from

3   a group consisting of a resource and an object.

1   18.   The conditional access system for remotely controlling functional

2   units in the content receiver as recited in claim 15, further comprising a plurality of

3   content receivers, wherein each of the plurality of receivers comprises: the functional

4   unit, a general purpose processor and the access control processor.